



Memorandum—August 14, 2007

Federal Pre-K Legislation

	Clinton/Bond (S. 1823)	Casey/Maloney (S. 1374)	Hirono (H.R. 3289)
Bill	Ready to Learn Act	Prepare All Kids Act	“Providing Resources Early for Kids” or “PRE-K” Act
Amended Law	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
Funding Authorization	"Such sums as may be necessary"	\$5B in '08, increases by \$1B annual increments through FY12	\$1B annually for FY08 – FY13
Authorization Language	Grants to "establish and administer full day voluntary prekindergarten programs for children age 4"	Grants to "establish, expand, or enhance voluntary high-quality full-day pre-kindergarten programs"	Grants to "enhance or improve State-funded preschool programs, as defined by the State"
Allotment	STATE TO LOCAL: At least 25% of the grant funds awarded to community-based providers	STATE TO LOCAL: a) At least 25% of funded providers must be community-based b) At least 10% of funds earmarked for birth-to-three program quality and teacher development c) At least 10% of funds earmarked to extend program hours d) A maximum of 5% may be used for administrative expenses	FEDERAL TO STATE: a) Proportional to number of children birth to five living below the federal poverty threshold b) 2.5% of annual authorization reserved for Indian tribes and tribal organizations c) No state shall receive less than .25% of the amounts appropriated to be awarded under this grant program

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Eligibility	<p>ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS: “Schools, child care agencies, Head Start programs, or other community-based providers of pre-kindergarten programs”</p> <p>ELIGIBLE STATES:</p> <p>a) For fiscal year in which eligibility is determined, state per-child pre-k expenditures must meet or exceed the prior year’s expenditures; and must</p> <p>b) Use federal funds to supplement, not supplant, existing pre-k expenditures.</p>	<p>ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS: “A provider of a pre-kindergarten program, a Head Start agency, a provider of a child care program, and a for-profit or nonprofit organization that [meets State requirements and is in existence on date of qualification determination]”</p> <p>ELIGIBLE STATES:</p> <p>a) Funds must be used to supplement, not supplant, existing on early childhood education programs</p> <p>b) Maintain, at a minimum, expenditures for early childhood programs at a level that is at least equal to the prior year’s level.</p>	<p>ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS: Program eligibility determined by the state</p> <p>“QUALIFIED STATES” must:</p> <p>a) Require the use of research-based curricula that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language development, • Literacy, • Mathematics, • Science, • Creative arts, • Social and emotional development, • Approaches to learning, and • Physical and health development; <p>b) Require nationally established best practices for group size and student-teacher ratios;</p> <p>c) Require an AA degree of each teacher in an early ed field;</p> <p>d) Have a plan for developing a requirement that all teachers have a BA in 5 years after receiving grant;</p> <p>e) Maintain, at a minimum, the average per-child expenditure in applicant state’s pre-k programs; and</p> <p>f) Maintain, at a minimum, yearly expenditure on pre-k and child care services.</p> <p>“SELECTED STATES” must:</p> <p>a) Maintain average per-child state pre-k expenditures, and</p> <p>b) Maintain total yearly expenditures on pre-k and child care services.</p>

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Application	<p>STATE: States must submit a plan that outlines “how and when such State expects to provide voluntary pre-kindergarten for every four-year old in the State”</p>	<p>STATE applications must contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assurance that subgrants will be awarded to programs targeting children from families earning up to 200% of the federal poverty threshold and provide the program to those children for free; b) Assurance that subgrants will be sufficient to provide for high-quality programs; c) Assurance that 25% of funded providers will be community-based; d) The number of eligible children and the needs that will be served; e) A description of how the state will ensure that a wide range of providers will receive subgrants; f) A description of how the designated state agency will collaborate and coordinate activities with state-funded providers of pre-kindergarten programs, providers of federally funded programs such as Head Start, local educational agencies, and child care providers; g) A description of how the state will ensure that targeted children will continue to receive priority in high-quality programs funded by the grant; h) A description of how the state will meet the needs of working parents, and i) A description of how the state will support professional development for pre-k teachers and aides. 	<p>“QUALIFIED STATES” must demonstrate fulfillment of the criteria listed above and provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A description of how funds will be used to improve state-funded pre-k programs; b) A description of how the state is working to build capacity to serve more children in high-quality programs; c) A description of how the state will ensure that funds are available to a range of providers, including local educational agencies, Head Start, child care, and community-based providers; d) Assurances that funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, other early childhood funds; e) A description of how the state will evaluate the use of grant funds; f) A description of how the state will use funds to meet the needs of working parents; g) A description of how the state will help meet children’s developmental needs; h) A description of how the state will ensure that state-funded programs are available to and appropriate for children with disabilities; i) A description of how the state-funded pre-k programs will be culturally and linguistically appropriate to meet the needs of English language learners; j) A description of how the designated state agency will coordinate with other state agencies on delivery of early childhood services and programs; k) A description of how state-funded pre-k programs will facilitate the transition to kindergarten;

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<p>Application (cont.)</p>		<p>LOCAL: Pre-k providers shall submit an application to the designated state agency containing information required by the agency, including descriptions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How the provider will meet children’s needs, including children with disabilities, children in foster care, English language learners, homeless children, or children with other special needs; b) How the provider will serve eligible children who are not served through similar programs; c) A plan for involving families in the pre-k program; d) How children and their parents and families will receive support services within the community; e) How the provider collaborates with other providers of services to children and families including Head Start, child care, and local education agencies to meet the needs of children, families, and working families; and f) How the provider will facilitate the transition to kindergarten. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> l) A description of how the monitoring process will ensure program quality; m) A description of how the state will coordinate this grant with the state early learning council or other state entity designed to coordinate early learning services; and n) A description of how state-funded programs will prioritize children from low-income families. <p>“SELECTED STATES” must include all of the above, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assurances that the state will become qualified within two fiscal years; b) A demonstration that the state maintains average per-child and total expenditures on state pre-k programs; and c) Information relating to any criteria established by the Secretary of Education.

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Use of Funds	<p>REQUIRED: 85% of funds must be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Serve children age four, starting with children from families below 200% of the federal poverty threshold and English language learners; b) Within two years, provide for each classroom a teacher who holds either a BA degree in early childhood education or a BA degree in a related field with specialized training in early childhood development; c) Implement a developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate curriculum aligned with state early learning standards and with valid state assessments; and d) Establish teacher-child ratios of not more than 1:10 and class sizes of not more than 20 students. <p>15% of funds must be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure children’s health and safety in the program; b) Support professional development; and c) Provide comprehensive services <p>ALLOWABLE: After satisfying the above requirements, the state can use funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Serve younger children; b) Increase salaries; c) Provide additional comprehensive services, as needed; and d) Build or repair facilities as needed. 	<p>REQUIRED: Pre-k providers shall use grant funds to establish, expand, or enhance pre-k programs for children who are ages three through five, by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Providing a pre-k program that is developmentally appropriate and prepares children for kindergarten; b) Purchasing educational equipment as necessary; and c) Extending part-day programs to full day. <p>PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: Pre-k providers that receive a subgrant shall carry out a high-quality program by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maintaining maximum class size of 20 children with at least one teacher per classroom; b) Ensure that student: instructor ratios do not exceed 10:1 c) Utilize developmentally appropriate curricula that support cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and approaches to learning; d) Providing at least a six-hour-per-day program; and e) Ensuring that pre-k teachers have a BA with specialization in early education or will obtain that degree within six years of employment. <p>ALLOWABLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Pay for student transportation; and b) Provide professional development to pre-k teachers and aides. 	<p>QUALITY: Funds may be used for any one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase the number of teachers and administrators with BA degrees in early education or a related BA and specialized training; b) Increase the number of teacher aides with AA degrees in early childhood education or in a related field with specialized training; c) Increase compensation and benefits of teachers and administrators and to recruit and retain all staff; d) Decrease class sizes; e) Improve teacher: student ratios; f) Provide comprehensive services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screenings and referrals for vision, hearing, health, and mental health, • Parent involvement, and • Nutrition services; g) Extend hours per day or weeks per year of the program; h) Improve quality-monitoring system; i) Provide for professional development; j) Conduct minor renovations of facilities to ensure programs are developmentally appropriate. k) Use up to 10% of funds to improve birth-to-three services

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Use of Funds (cont.)			<p>CAPACITY: A “qualified state” may use up to 50% of funds to expand pre-k programs that prioritize low-income communities, if:</p> <p>a) At least \$250M is appropriated; OR the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets the requirements of a “qualified” state for curriculum, classroom size, student/teacher ratios; • Requires a BA degree in early childhood education or related field with specialized training for each teacher; • Requires that each program provide full-day services at every location; • Requires comprehensive services for at-risk children; and • Requires ongoing professional development for teachers.
Federal Portion	50%	50%	<p>QUALIFIED STATES: Total state funding for pre-k must be at least 50% of the grant.</p> <p>SELECTED STATES: must provide at least 30% more funding than in the most recent fiscal year for which it was not a grantee.</p>

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Reporting	<p>STATE: Must report annually on the effectiveness of pre-k programs funded under this title.</p> <p>FEDERAL: Secretary of Education to report annually to Congress and coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <p>BOTH: Reports must describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Actions taken to move toward providing high-quality pre-k to all four year olds; b) A timetable for implementing a high-quality pre-k program. c) All efforts to improve the integration of full-day pre-k with the K-12 system; and d) Efforts to educate parents about best practices in their role in early education. 	<p>LOCAL: Report annually with data including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The number and ages, family income, race, gender, disability, and native language of enrolled children; b) A description of the curriculum and how it supports cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development; c) A description of how the curriculum is culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate; and d) A statement of all funding sources used to support the program. <p>STATE: Must report annually on the effectiveness of all pre-k programs receiving grants.</p> <p>FEDERAL: Department of Health and Human Services must report to Congress annually.</p>	<p>ALL STATES: Must report annually on activities carried out, including data on improvements in the quality of state pre-k.</p>
Teacher Training Goals	<p>All teachers must have a BA degree in early childhood education or a BA in a related field with specialized training within two years of the awarding of the grant.</p>	<p>All teachers have a BA degree in early childhood education or a BA in a related field with specialized training within six years of the awarding of the grant.</p>	<p>Funds are available to help states develop and fulfill a requirement for pre-k teachers to obtain a BA degree in early childhood education or a BA in a related field with specialized training.</p> <p>Funds are available to help states develop and fulfill an AA requirement for assistant teachers.</p>
Designated Federal Department	Department of Education	Department of Health and Human Services	Department of Education
Designated State Officer	Governor (with instructions to designate an agency)	State agency	Stage agency

Additional bills that are supportive of expanding access to quality pre-kindergarten programs:

Bill Number	Bill Title	Date Introduced	Sponsor
H.R. 3263	Universal Pre-kindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2007	7/31/2007	Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
	Purpose: Amends Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to authorize grants to implement or expand pre-k programs		
H.R. 2655	Early Educator Loan Forgiveness Act of 2007	6/11/2007	Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI-2)
	Purpose Amends the Title IV of the Higher Education Act to create a student loan forgiveness program for early childhood educators		
S. 1573	Early Childhood Investment Act of 2007	6/7/2007	Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT)
	Purpose: Provides federal grants to create partnerships between local educational agencies and non-profits in order to improve the quality of early childhood education programs		
H.R. 2616	House version of S. 1573	6/7/2007	Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3)
S. 1431	Early Childhood Education Professional Development and Career System Grants Act	5/17/2007	Senators George Voinovich (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
	Purpose: Amends Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to create early childhood educator professional development and career systems		
H.R. 1779	Loan Forgiveness for Head Start Teachers Act of 2007	3/29/2007	Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3)
	Purpose : Amends Title IV of the Higher Education Act to make Head Start teachers eligible for student loans available to K-12 teachers		
S. 883	Senate version of H.R. 1779	3/14/2007	Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
S. 152	Early Education Act of 2007	1/4/2007	Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
	Purpose: To create a Title X within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to provide grants to support State pre-k programs		